Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

a new overcoat that has never been seen in their camp before. Or if he did buy it, it was only to brag about the good times in that Turkish Sultan country of theirs! Bought it because the weather is getting cold? That story won't work at this time of the year; let's go and warm things up for them, anyhow."

Often, too, their victims expiate the sins of other ancestors, of middle maniacs of the Hudibras type, who surrounded the actions and words of their neighbors with a network of by-laws that have since become dead-letter statutes from the standpoint of rational magistrates, but are still preposterously alive in the skulls of amateur regulators. For many years after the Spanish Cortes had abolished the witchcraft laws, Spanish mountaineers still joined the search gangs of the *matabruxos* or "hag killers," and the declaration of metaphysical freedom and equality has benefited only the most progressive communities of our model republic; the streets of Reactionville still resound with the whoops of the heretic hunter.

The impeachments which our midnight reformers have made pretexts of murderous assaults include charges of profanity, financial extravagance, sabbath-breaking, premature marriages, non-conventional dress ("bloomers," etc.), agnosticism, unsocial habits, disregard of warnings—contempt of court, as it were—and even failure to patronize local markets and industries. In the Western Alleghanies a gang of masked hoodlums smashed the scant household furniture of a crippled cobbler who had been caught reading Darwin on Sunday, and ordered a censor out of his house; and a Texas physician, first bullied in his office and then trying to leave town, was attacked at the depot by a cowhide brigade and beaten out of human shape for having refused to join the "Law and Order" league.

It would be absurd to say that such outrages supplement the shortcomings of our penal code; they ape the overzeal of the dark ages, and often make even the fanaticism of intolerance a cloak of much baser propensities—envy, destructiveness, and the instinctive hatred of superior intelligence.

Like ghouls masquerading in the garb of Friar Benedict, these night prowlers defy ordinary methods of self-protection, and can be exorcised only by the removal of the cause. Bushwhacker moralists who would baffle Mr. Caldwell's "counter regulators" by superior topographical knowledge might be effectually abolished by the establishment of village gymnasiums and Free Holiday leagues.

F. L. OSWALD.

THE STORING OF ATMOSPHERIC ELECTRICITY.

IT is a scientific fact that the atmosphere contains more or less electricity at all times. Over a century ago Benjamin Franklin gave a practical demonstration of this truth by drawing a current of electricity from the upper atmosphere through a kite. Other experiments of a similar nature resulted in the death of several experimenters, they having unwisely lost sight of the fact that it was necessary to have some protection in the shape of insulation in case of an overcharge.

These experiments have proved beyond doubt that electricity may be drawn from the atmosphere by simple means, all of which have been long understood and are quite natural; moreover, we know that it is easier to obtain this current under some atmospheric conditions than others. Dry air is a non-conductor and moist air a good conductor of this valuable invisible power, and the greatest amount of electricity is found when the atmosphere is charged to its full capacity with moisture.

Electricity is shown in the phenomena of thunder-storms, in the slight electrification in the air during clear weather, and in the aurora.

During the auroral display it has been possible, owing to the abundance of electricity in the air, to work telegraph lines and transmit messages for long distances without the aid of a battery. The most plausible theory of the aurora is that of Franklin, that it is caused by electric discharges in the upper air, resulting from the differing electrical conditions of the cold air of the polar regions and the warmer streams of air and vapor raised from the ocean by evaporation in tropical regions.

It is generally understood that the clear air above the earth is positively electrified, and that the air at the earth's surface is negatively electrified and its volume measured by its potential from a point above the earth to that at the surface, while the air between the upper and lower layers serves to keep the opposite charges separate.

It is usually found that in cloudy or rainy weather the charge is of a negative character and with clearing weather it changes to positive, any definite change in the electrical conditions indicating a change of weather conditions.

Atmospheric conditions must necessarily play a very essential part in the electrical potential. This being so uncertain and weather conditions so changeable, it may never be possible to obtain a constant for any given elevation; but it is possible to so govern the current drawn from the clouds or a clear sky bv passing it to earth through lightning arrestors or possibly resistance coils, that by the time it reaches the desired point its potential would be so reduced as to allow its charge to be utilized in charging storage batteries.

Now, it may be said that under the most adverse conditions the current would be found too weak to be of value; but I believe that even under such conditions there would be sufficient electricity gathered to continue in force that previously stored without failure or loss of power, provided the capacity of storing is sufficient to meet the wants of an emergency of this character.

This would provide against the unstable atmospheric element, and the periods and conditions under which its greatest volume exists being known, extra precaution and provision must be made for storing for future use.

It is contended by some that the ocean affords the best facilities for gathering and storing this valuable power; I contend that, although the ocean may be the better conductor, it would be more difficult to store on the ocean than on land, for it is always an easy matter to carry a current to moist soil and there do the storing. Besides, there is in addition to be gathered the earth currents, and that artificially generated by the thousands of dynamos, etc., which is of itself to-day a vast power and is hardly utilized before the power is lost. There is nothing to prove that a current when once set in motion cannot be controlled and made a permanent power; its force, if stored, may be used over and over again, if a proper conductor is provided, after it has performed its work, to carry it to a reservoir or storage plant for future use.

Have you ever thought of the great volume of electricity which our atmosphere contains? We inhale with every breath a sufficient quantity to strengthen and invigorate us—it is one of the most important elements. There is an ebb and flood wave to our atmosphere which is similar in its action to the tides of the ocean. Its maximum pressure occurs at certain hours of the day and night, and its minimum at opposite hours. When the pressure is at its minimum the electrical force of our bodies is least, and at such times we are greatly enervated and weakened, and at periods of excessive humidity similar effects in our physical condition may be observed. When the atmosphere is thoroughly saturated it is a more perfect conductor, and the current readily leaves us for that offering the least resistance. All these forces tend to show and prove that there is an electrical discharge from one substance to another, and fully demonstrates that it needs but the best conductor to gather and a proper receptacle to store the electric fluid which constantly surrounds us.

Several experimenters are already employed in devising a plan for gathering and storing atmospheric electricity, and I am confident from the progress already attained in this line that it will not be many years before atmospheric electricity can be properly stored and utilized, taking the place of all lighting, heating and motor power employed at the present day.

The possibilities and uses to which this power may be applied are innumerable. I expect to see it used in every house in as simple a manner as gas or water, so that it shall be within the reach of the poor as well as the wealthy.

The earth and atmosphere were given to us for useful purposes; the earth has responded to many of our wants, and now as science progresses and we are becoming more enlightened, the possibilities of atmospheric qualities and quantities are open for experiment.

E. B. DUNN.

WHY MORE MEN DO NOT MARRY.

THE first reason that naturally suggests itself as answer to this question is the cost of living. To-day it takes more money to support a home than formerly, because what once were luxuries are now considered family necessities. Not only must the poorest city tenement-house be provided with set laundry tubs, but farmers' wives insist that their kitchens as well as their husbands' barns shall be provided with modern appliances.

A woman herself is no more expensive as the presiding genius or as the maid-of-all-work in the home than in the past. If she has more clothes than her predecessor it is because newspaper and magazine enterprise has brought the æsthetics of dress within the reach of her economics. She runs her own sewing-machine, and cuts her cheap material by the latest pattern in *Harper's Bazar*, instead of employing the village dressmaker, who has to be found as well as paid.

But apart from herself the woman, as wife and mother, demands more accessories than did her grandmother and the problematic husband counts the cost of these non-essentials before he proposes. He knows he cannot get as much out of his possible wife as his father did out of his mother, and that even if he dared to work her as hard, his doing so would furnish forth a theme for discussion at some woman's society. Naturally his vanity objects to such display of his valor as an employer, disguised as a husband If individual men were once under the sway of individual women, the collective man is now bossed by the collective woman and dreads the dispassionate treatment he may receive from her words in clubs and social circles.

In the estimated cost of living, the prospective husband includes not so much the price of meat or flour per pound as the expense of hygienic